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Fear the Reaper

Delirium and indigestion at the First Annual California Hot Sauce Expo hits Long Beach.

By Kevin Flores
Diversions Editor

Soon after arriving at the First Annual Hot Sauce Expo, I'm drawn to a group of people circling a pingpong table. There, two men square off in what looks to be an innocent game of beer pong. As I get to the front, the winning shot falls in. Cheers all around. The losing squad scrunch up their faces in defeat—and for good reason.

The red plastic cups don't contain lager or even liquor. They contained hot sauce—habanero hot sauce.

But while the habanero might take the stuffing out of your average pepperhead, I'd come in search of something much more sinister: the fabled HP22B pepper. Otherwise known as the Carolina Reaper— infamous for the ravage it wrecks on the innards of those foolish enough to take a bite.

To find it, all I had to do was follow the peppers' path of destruction, which wouldn't be hard.

I quickly spot a sweat-spattered attendee panting in the shade of a tree. Tautis Skorka had eaten a Carolina Reaper not 30 minutes before and was still suffering from the ensuing dragon breath.

"It burns from your face all the way to your hands," he says.

First bred by Ed Harris, mad scientist of the pepper world and founder of the Puckerbutt Pepper Company, the Carolina Reaper is not your garden-variety capsicum. It packs a hundred times the heat of a jalapeno and double that of its granddaddy, the ghost pepper.

Peaking at 2.2 million Scoville heat units, a measure of spiciness, this little hell-spawn is the world's hottest pepper, according to The Guinness Book of World Records.

To give you a quick reference point: Sriracha Hot Chili Sauce registers a measly score of 2,500 on the Scoville heat scale. Weak sauce compared to the Carolina Reaper.

As I made my way through the expo, I ran into Steve Seabury, a longtime fire-eater and New York native. He organized the expo and said he runs a similar event back home, which draws over 11,000 people.

I tell him about my plans to eat a Carolina Reaper.

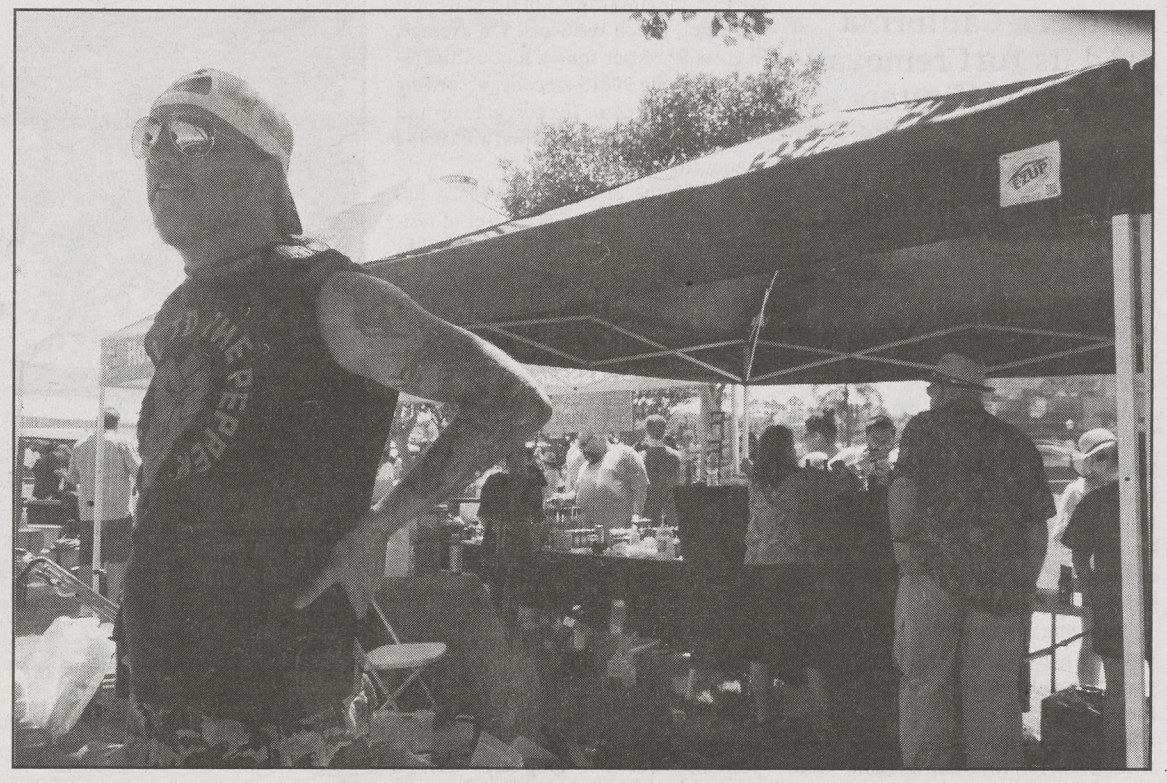
"That pepper will destroy you. It is sold to the United States military for military-grade pepper spray."

The first wisps of doubt began to gather in the back of my mind.

Seabury points me in the direction of a black tent on the far side of the concourse and tells me I'll find what I'm looking for there.

Approaching the ominous black tent, I see them. They're little things, prune-sized chili peppers with a fierce-

see **SPICY**, page 4

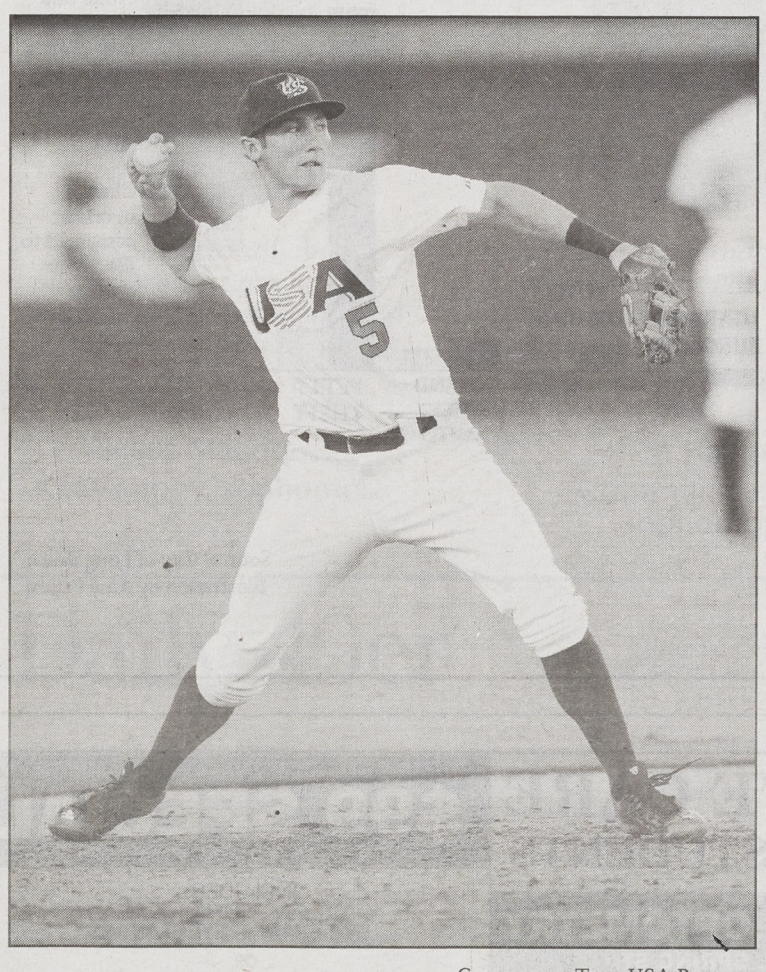




Above, poor Tautis Skorka suffers after eating a ghost pepper, a Carolina Reaper Pepper and playing hot sauce pong the First Annual Hot Sauce Expo in Long Beach. Left, a competitor shovels a Carolina Reaper pepper, the hottest chili pepper in the world, during an eating competition at the First Annual Hot Sauce Expo in Long Beach.

Photos by Nicholas Jones | Daily 49er

Baseball



Courtesy of Team USA Baseball

Garrett Hampson is only the 11th LBSU dirtbag to suit up for Team USA baseball. He is batting .296 and is fourth on the team with 4 runs scored.

Defending the red, white and blue

Dirtbag shortstop Garrett Hampson took the field as part of Team USA's Collegiate National Team this summer.

By Kayce Contatore
Assistant Sports Editor

As a benchwarmer on his high schools junior varsity team, Long Beach State's Garrett Hampson contemplated whether or not he wanted to continue playing baseball.

But a love for the game he grew up playing and a coach who took him under his wing helped Hampson realize his dream of playing professionally.

His dedication and passion for America's pastime earned him a chance to play for America; on the USA Collegiate National Team.

"I was really honored and humbled to be even in consideration for team USA," Hampson said. "It was really cool to be considered one of the better players in college baseball and to be able to represent my country with USA across my chest and play the game I love."

Hampson is the 11th Dirtbag to play for the collegiate national team and the first since 2007.

He said that being a part of the national team has taught him to work harder in his game every single day to be able to compete at the highest level.

As a part of the national team playing with the best players in college baseball, Hampson gained the realization that he has what it takes to make this a career, something he didn't have as a high school student.

"My freshman year I didn't make varsity [baseball] because I had a shoulder injury," Hampson said. "I wasn't getting any playing time on my [junior varsity] team. I kind of started to think about pursuing basketball over baseball at that time. I'm glad I didn't do that."

This summer playing for Team USA, Hampson has started in eight of the team's ten games was tied for fourth on the team with four runs scored.

He helped the national team take the series victory over Cuba raising his batting average with the team to .296.

In just two years at LBSU, the Dirtbags shortstop has started all 114 games and earned the Big West

> **"I was really honored and humbled to be even in consideration for Team USA."**
>
> *-Garrett Hampson, Dirtbag shortstop*

Freshman Field Athlete Player of the Year in 2014 and was on the All-Big West second team this past season.

Long Beach State head coach Troy Buckley credits Hampson's parents for the kind of person and athlete he is today.

Although Hampson isn't an over-

see **TEAM USA**, page 8

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California drought funds drying up

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California used its turf removal budget indefinitely.

BY AMY PATTON
Print Managing Editor

Despite a lack of funds from the Southern California department the City of Long Beach will still help fund residential turf removal projects.

As of last week, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California exhausted its entire turf removal budget, and as a result, will no longer fund any turf removal projects. Southern California helped to remove $450 million worth of turf from residential landscapes.

The Long Beach Water Department stated in a press release on July 9 that it would provide $2.50 per square foot of turf for its Lawn-to-Garden program. The program used to subsidize $3.50, with the help of the Metropolitan Water District budget.

"Converting landscapes from grass to drought tolerant plants is one of the biggest lifestyle changes a resident can make to save water during this unprecedented drought," Harry Saltzgaver, the president of the Board of Water Commissioners, said in the press release. "Long Beach will continue to support these important efforts as strongly as we can without the assistance of Metropolitan's funding.

The Lawn-to-Garden program subsidizes a maximum of 1,000 square feet for Long Beach residents. On average, it costs $2.35 per square foot of turf removal in the 90815 zipcode, according to homewyse.com. The cost goes up and down depending on the total area being removed.

So far, the city of Long Beach has converted 2 million square feet of residential and commercial turf to drought resistant landscapes, according to the press release. The Long Beach Water Department will also subsidize $1 per square foot of synthetic turf installment.

To be eligible for the funding, residents must complete an online landscaping class and submit a drought-friendly landscape design for approval. Plants used in the landscaping design must cover 65 percent of the landscaped area and must either be California native or rated as "low" or "very low" water consumers, according to the Lawn-to-Garden website.

"We view the conversion from grass lawns to beautiful, water-conserving landscapes not as a temporary drought response, but as a long-term change which all of California must embrace to respond to the realities of our water supply imbalance," Kevin Wattier, the general manager of the Long Beach Water Department said in the press release. "All of California needs to permanently reduce its water consumption, and landscape conversion is the key to getting there."

In response to the drought, the State Water Resources Control Board ordered Long Beach in 2013 to reduce water usage by 16 percent by the next year. Last month, Long Beach reduced its water usage by 19 percent for the first time since the order.

California State University, Long Beach is converting six turf sites on campus to drought resistant landscapes over the summer. Brian McKinnon, the Facilities Management manager for grounds and landscaping said that the new landscaping could save 3.5 million gallons of water per year and $15,000 in water-related maintenance.

Paul Wingco, the Energy and Sustainability Manager of Facilities Management said that CSULB spends approximately $300,000 annually on watering landscaping. About 50 to 60 percent of the school's water budget is spent on landscaping, Wingco said.

According to Lawn-to-Garden, about half of the city's water usage is used on landscape irrigation, but drought-resistant landscaping can reduce water use per square foot by 70 percent.



JESUS AMBROSIO | DAILY 49ER
The City of Long Beach Water Department subsidzes residents $2.50 per square foot of turf removal in efforts to conserve water during California's drought by converting grass into drought resistant landscapes.

NEWS IN BRIEF

LBPD addresses crime wave

BY AMY PATTON
Print Managing Editor

The Long Beach Police Department issued a citywide public safety release on Friday to address the recent spike in crime.

In 2014, violent crimes were reportedly at an all time low since 1972, according to Friday's release. In comparison to the previous 5-year average, it has increased by more than 5 percent.

"Every department in the city is working to address this summer spike in violence and to keep every community safe," Mayor Robert Garcia said in the press release.

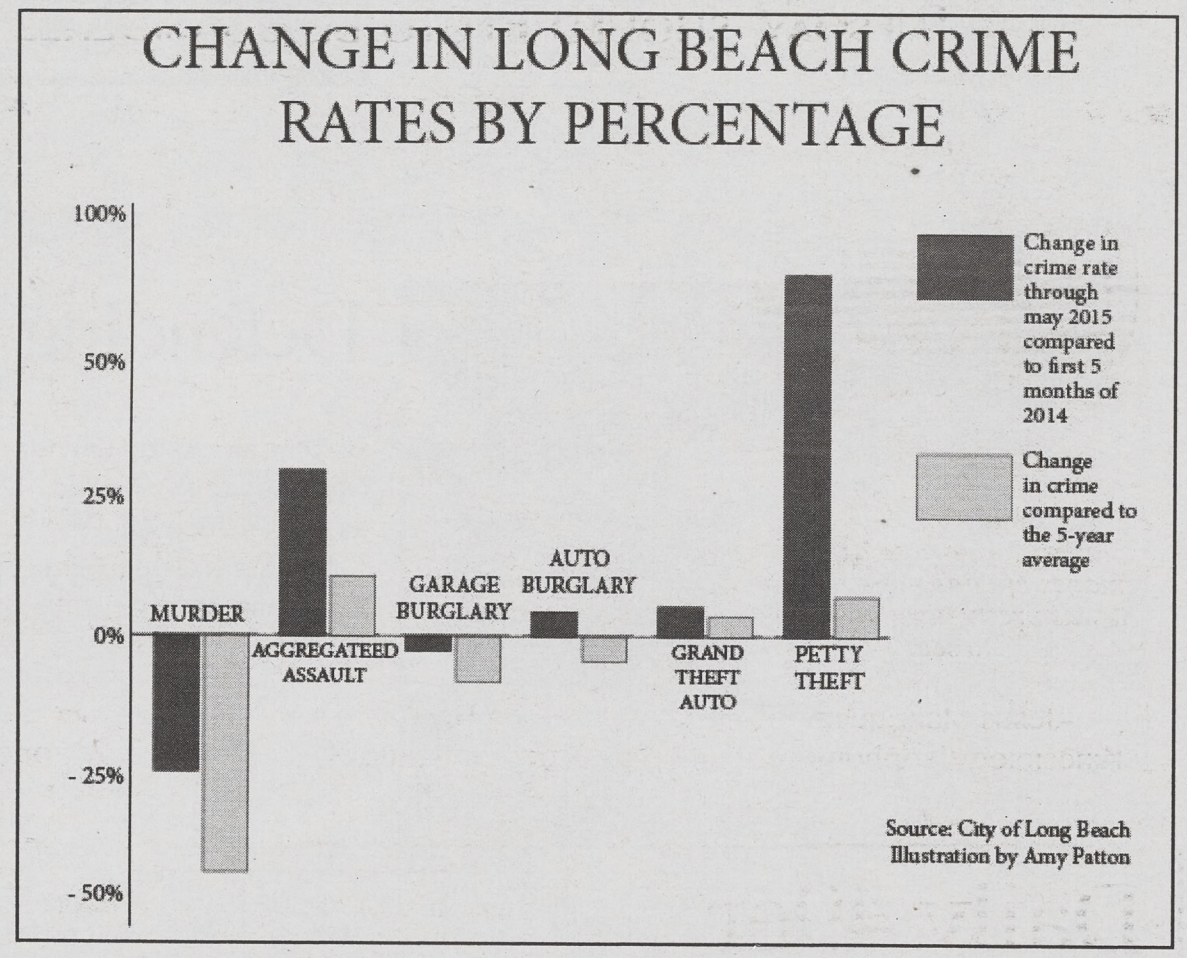
According to the analysis of LBPD and FBI crime reports by neighborhoodscout.com, Long Beach's crime rate is higher than 76 percent of all other cities in California. Long Beach ranks a 20/100 on the website's crime index.

The city is using $350,000 of funding to target residential property crimes.

The city encourages residents to follow the "See something, say something" mentality during this seasonal crime wave.

"We are very concerned about a recent spike in violent assaults," said Long Beach Police Chief Robert Luna. "We are working closely with City Departments on a public safety initiative, and increasing our efforts to enhance partnerships within the community. Keeping our city safe is everyone's responsibility, and I look forward to working together to make an impact on crime."

The city is planning an event in the most crime-affected areas to offer services from the Public Safety Continuum to "engage the community in a positive way," the press release stated. Affected areas and event dates have yet to be released.



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Delivery is the newest flavor of the month

MICHAEL MENDOZA
Assistant Opinions Editor

Taco Bell began testing its new delivery service at select locations, giving people another reason to never leave the couch.

The popularity of delivery service is trending, and it looks like it's becoming a new fixture in today's on-demand society. The convenience of technology has enabled us to become lazier by the day — it's too tempting not to try out new delivery services.

Even fan favorites Chipotle, Dunkin' Doughnuts and Panera are joining in the growing trend of delivery, and we millennials are the ones reaping the benefits.

This generation is all about convenience. Why would I take the time to walk down the street to go eat, when I can stay on my sofa and order up, while laying back and watching "Orange is the New Black's" newest season?

Millennials are all using "on the fly" services like Netflix or Uber, and college students will especially enjoy Taco Bell's new delivery experience.

The majority of Taco Bell's consumers are those of the millennial generation, according to the OC Register, which also reported that some millennials do not drive, either because they are too young or they are instead opting to use rideshare services.

Now students who do not drive or do not want to burn gas just to eat can sit back in their dorms and order Taco Bell for the night with their friend or cuddle buddy. And since no one likes to be the one to make the food run for the entire party, anyone with the app can order grub.

The process of ordering a Taco Bell delivery meal goes through a service called DoorDash, which allows customers to order through the service's website or app. Once a person places an order on the app or website, DoorDash places the order at the Taco Bell location, picks up the meal and delivers it to your location.

USA Today reported that after receiving a high demand for a delivery service, Taco Bell finally decided to experiment with over 200 locations in the states of California and Texas.

> *Millennials are benefiting from the emerging competition of fast-food-delivery services.*

The LA Times reported that customers are charged an average delivery fee of $3.99. The Times also noted that a delivery fee for some residents living near a Pasadena Taco Bell location is only $1.

Taco Bell's chief executive Brian Niccol said that the new venture is the "Number 1" request from Taco Bell consumers.

"We see a tremendous opportunity to bring the Taco Bell experience to fans where and when they want it the most," Niccol said, according to an OC Register report.

USA Today also reported that Taco Bell is not the only franchise delving into this potential cash cow. Franchise heavyweights like McDonald's and Burger King are trying to continue capitalizing on the trend.

Starbucks is also getting ready to start its delivery service in the second half of 2015. Both McDonald's and Starbucks are partnering up with the delivery service mobile app, Postmates.

The convenience of sitting back and having someone else pick up my food for me is like not having to study for an exam because you have someone giving you all the answers. Well...almost.

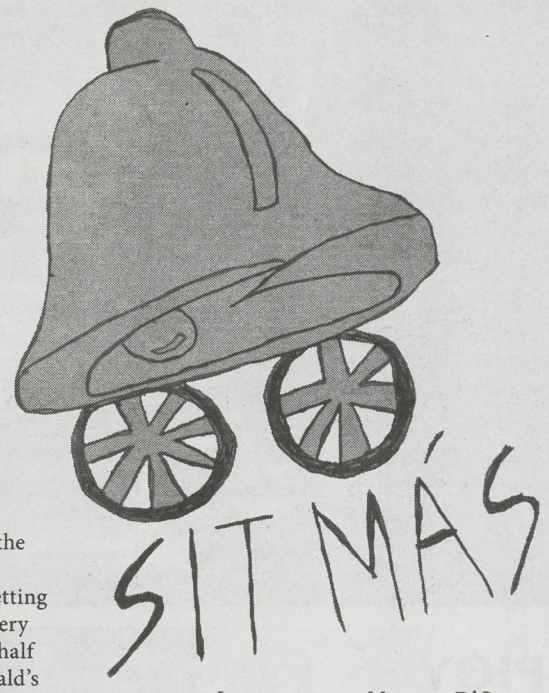


ILLUSTRATION BY MADISON D'ORNELLAS

CAMPUS VOICE

AFTER SEEING IMAGES FROM A FLYBY BY NASA'S NEW HORIZONS SPACECRAFT TUESDAY, SHOULD PLUTO BE CONSIDERED A PLANET ONCE AGAIN?



"It should totally be a planet. We just got our first images of Pluto close up and it was pretty darn awesome to see."

–Jesus Manriquez
Kinesiology, sophomore



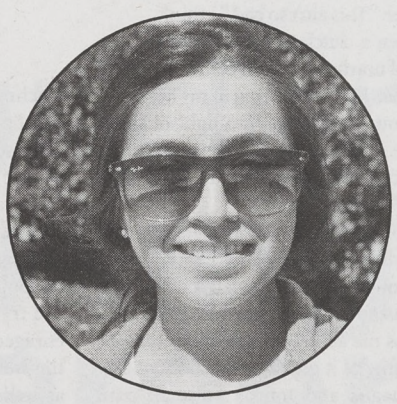
"I don't have that much an opinion about Pluto, if it was one at one point why not anymore. But I mean I'm not an astronaut."

–Iben Haagaard
Communications, sophomore



"A couple years back they said it wasn't a planet, if it's mostly just a rock I don't think it should be considered a planet."

–Yari Lopez
Anthropology, freshman



"Yes, because it used to be considered a planet, why even change it."

–Dominique Cova
Business, freshman

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Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.





PHOTOS BY NICHOLAS JONES | DAILY 49ER

Top, Steve Seabury, organizer of the First Annual Hot Sauce Expo in Long Beach, contemplates his love of hot sauce behind the booth of his own brand, High River Sauces. Above, Ed Currie, creator of the Carolina Reaper pepper, mischievously offers one of his tongue-scorchers at the First Annual Hot Sauce Expo in Long Beach.

SPICY

continued from page 1

ly red completion and the skin texture of a leper. From one end of their body a small pointed projection sticks out like Lucifer's tail.

I find Harris behind the booth, and he asks me if I'd like to sample a pepper. Before I know it, he's holding out a knife with a quarter Reaper speared through the tip. I look at it tentatively. His devilish grin looms beyond the outstretched knife.

In one motion, I take the slice in my fingers and pop the whole thing in my mouth with a purposeful show of abandon. There. Done.

"Make sure you don't touch your face with your hands," Harris says.

I chew down a few times. The fruit had a coarse texture. The initial rush of flavor is sweet and pungent, pretty close to a bell pepper. "This ain't so bad," I think.

Then a clutch of panic seizes my jaw. Out of nowhere the heat comes on strong and fast. Fire alarms ring in my head.

"Your body goes into fight or flight mode. It's the people who go into flight who can't handle it and run to the hospital," Harris says.

Hospital?

I close my eyes and begrudgingly swallow the half-masticated pepper. In an instant, the pepper-turned-fireball makes me acutely aware of my throat's anatomy as it goes down the shoot. My esophagus and tonsils pulse in pain from the peppers oily residue. My immune system has been summoned full-force.

"Eating one of these peppers is the equivalent to the endorphin rush of taking two grams of heroin, medically. You get that high," Harris says.

The heat is at full force now. I'm cinching my mouth in pain. I give Harris a lip smile, a farewell wave, and head off to suffer in private.

I see a bar and stagger toward it like a castaway toward an oasis. A beer never sounded more refreshing. However, moving my swollen mouthparts to order poses a challenge.

I try to speak—nothing. My lips are enraged, my sinuses are dripping, and the welling saliva in my mouth might as well be hot sauce. I surely look like a mess. I purse my lips and point at a tap. Luckily, the bartender seems understanding.

Beer gone, the burn begins to subside. But now the pepper has reached my stomach, which feels like a molten planet dangling from my insides by a hook. And it was only going to get worse.

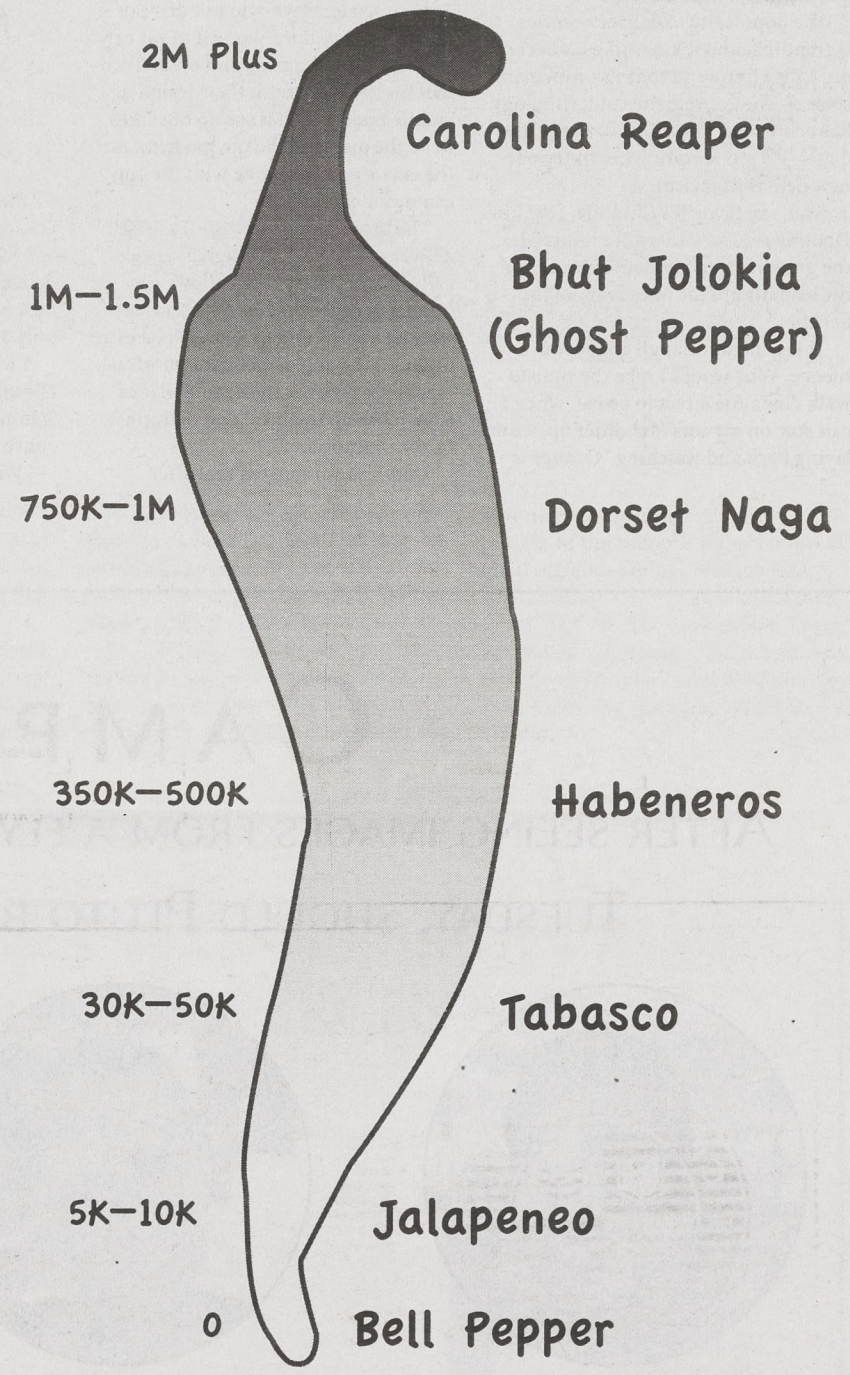
Harris had said that once the pepper made it to the intestines, the cramps would begin. And later that night I'd curse the pepper as I wriggle in pain as my guts are twisted into a pretzel. But for now, there was nothing left to do but wait.

I pull out Harris's business card and notice the words are blurry. My body is buzzing and tingling. The endorphins have kicked in, and I have the uncontrollable urge to laugh.

Especially because the event's stage is being transformed into The Stage of Doom where contestants will be attempting to scarf down as many of the Carolina Reaper peppers as possible in the span of a minute. I let out a booming laugh; relieved I'm not the biggest sucker at the event.

How hot are your peppers?

The Scoville Scale measures the spiciness of chili peppers and other spicy foods in Scoville Heat Units. The measurement is determined by disolving an exact measurement of dried pepper in alcohol to extract the heat components.



Source: chilliworld.com

GRAPHIC BY MEGAN GILBREATH | DAILY 49ER

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EVENT CALENDAR FOR JULY 16 - 22

July 16

2–4 p.m.
8th District Youth Ambassador Council Meeting
5641 Atlantic Ave.

4–7 p.m.
Loe Cost Pet Vaccination CLinic
4600 Long Beach Blvd.

8 p.m.
Luminaries
Levitt Pavilion MacArthur Park
2230 W 6th St., Los Angeles

July 17

8 p.m.
Western Standard Time
85 East Holly St., Pasadena

July 18

9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Bixby Park Farmers Market
130 Cherry Ave. at Broadway

noon–5 p.m.
Love Long Beach Festival
Granada Beach
5411 E Ocean Blvd., Long Beach

1:30–3 p.m.
Low Cost Pet Vaccination Clinic
Drake Park
951 Maine Ave.

July 19

6:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Long Beach Antique Market
5000 East Lew Davis Street

noon–2 p.m.
Beach Clean Up
Junipero Beach

7 p.m.
Gordon Goodwins Big Phat Band
Grand Plaza
350 South Grand Ave., Long Beach

July 20

8 p.m.
Motown on Monday
The Federal Bar
102 Pine Ave., Long Beach

July 21

3–7 p.m.
Bixby Park Farmers Market
130 Cherry Avenue at Broadway

5–6 p.m.
City Council Meeting
333 W. Ocean Blvd.

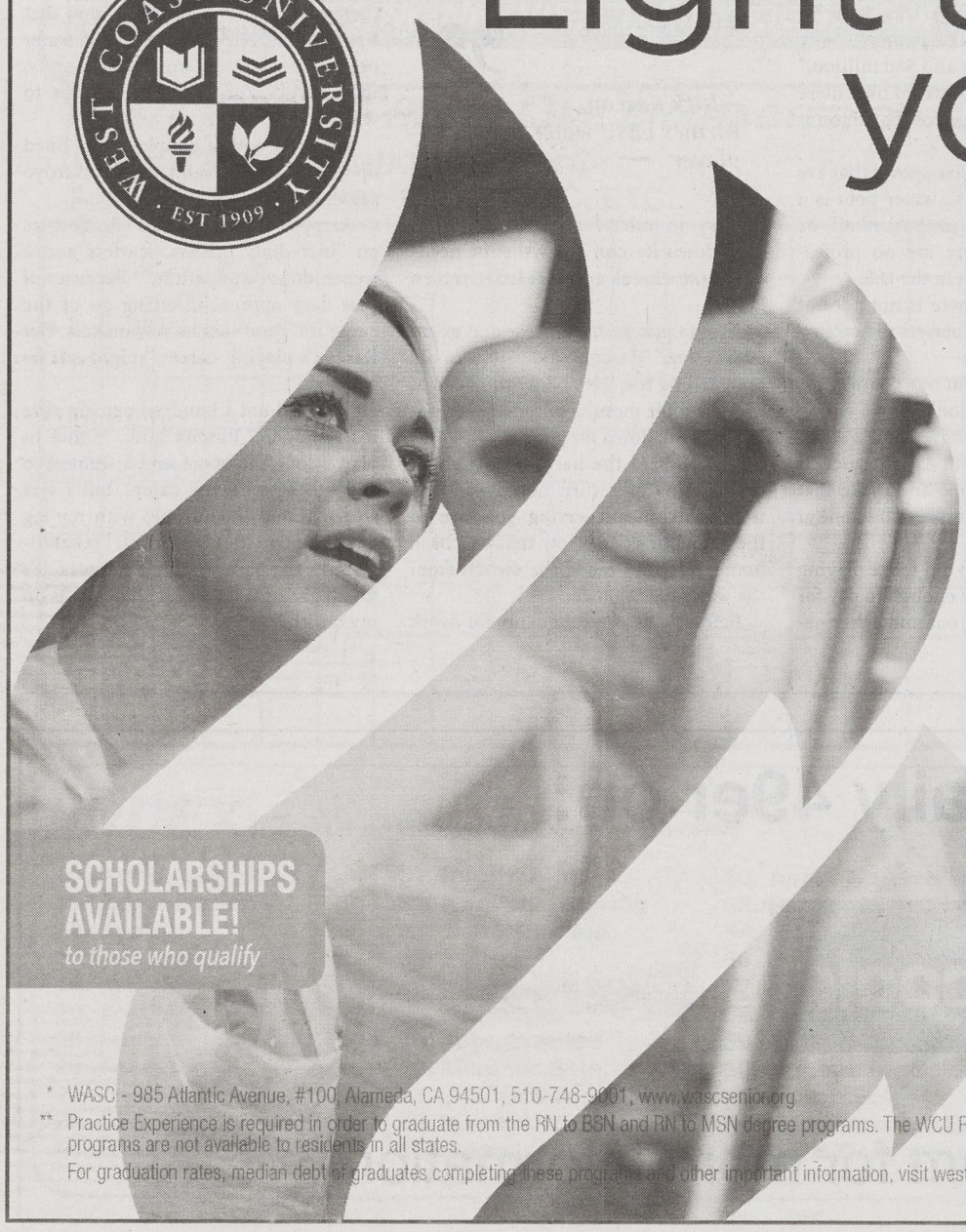
6 p.m.
Black Knights
Amoeba
6400 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles

July 22

1–2:30 p.m.
Free Healthy Long Beach
3820 Cherry Avenue, Long Beach

8 p.m.
Dengue Fever
Alex's Bar
2913 East Anaheim St., Long Beach

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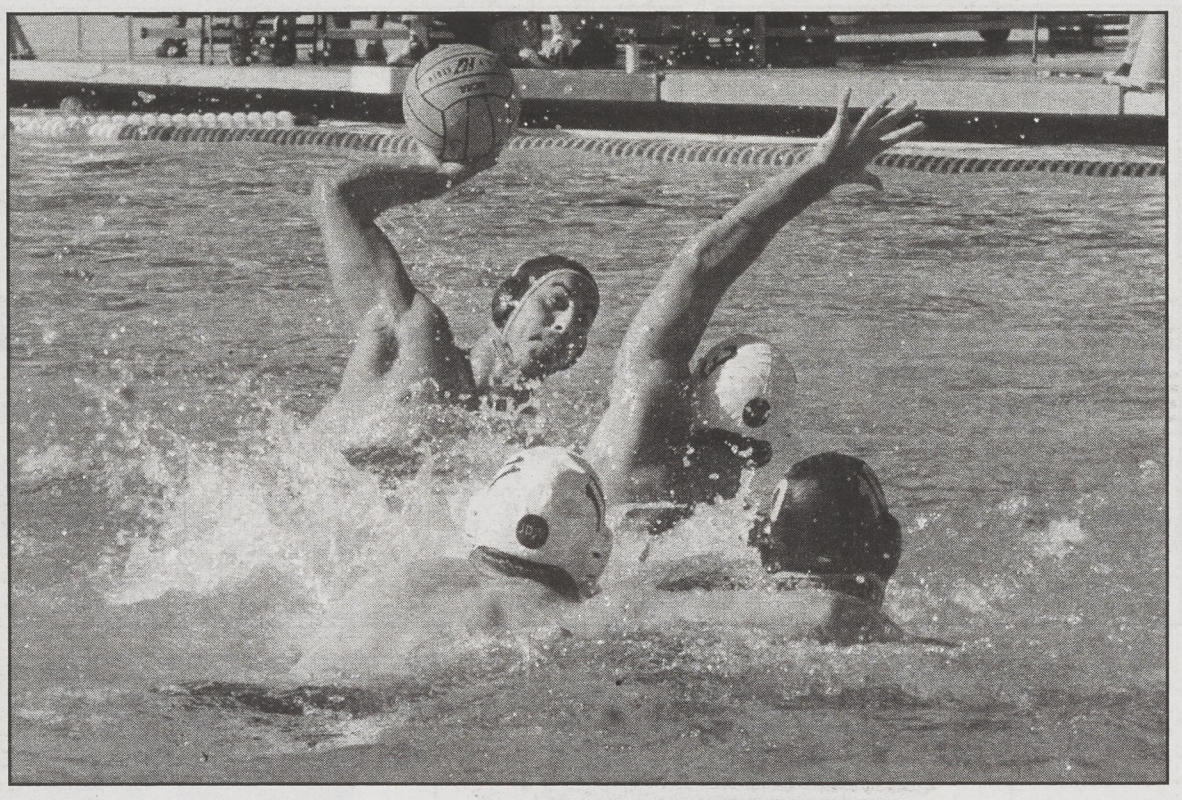
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Water Polo

Fish out of Water



File Photo | Daily 49er

Attacker Nick Rascon played on LBSU's men's water polo team from 2010-14, scoring 125 goals over his college career, before making the move to VK Primorac Kotor in Montenegro.

Three-time All-American attacker is back stateside after stint with Primorac Kotor water polo.

By Will Hernandez
Contributing Writer

Nick Rascon knew he was done playing professional water polo, possibly forever, after taking one look at his severely swollen knee during a game with his Montenegrin team earlier this year.

Being so far away from home in a strange country, Rascon's love for water polo began to dwindle. Re-aggravating an injury he carried since college only pushed him to make a difficult decision sooner than he'd liked.

"It's difficult for water polo players to keep [playing through adversity] but they keep pushing and keep playing because they love it," Rascon said. "They are pretty much doing it for pride or whoever they're representing. It's more for the love of the game and it's unfortunate that there is none left."

Several months prior, just days after graduating from Long Beach State with a bachelor's degree in journalism, Nick Rascon boarded an airplane out of Los Angeles International Airport with the hopes of making a living doing what he loves.

The three-time All-American attacker, who played for LBSU's men's water polo team from 2010 to 2014, had just signed a contract with one of the most historic clubs in European water polo; Kotor, Montenegro's V.K. Primorac.

"The average player in the league is really good," Rascon said. "The Adriatic League is one of the best leagues in the world with some of the best competition."

When Rascon signed with the club, it was in the middle of the season for Primorac. After getting off his plane, Rascon met his new teammates and went to work.

"We started training a little bit and then I had my first game two or three weeks after I got there," Rascon said. "And everybody was with arms wide open."

The Laguna Hills native said that the team and people of Kotor were receptive to him because another American water polo player had established success while there. Tony Azevedo, captain of the U.S. water polo team and Long Beach native, played for Primorac back in 2009 and took them all the way to the Euro championship and won.

Unlike the U.S., where sports like baseball, basketball and football rule in popularity, in Kotor, water polo is the national sport. Since Kotor is a small town with a population less than 15,000, Rascon said living there "felt like everyone knew each other."

One night after a game, Rascon went out for a bite to eat at one of the local restaurants and was rushed by a bunch of Primorac supporters. However, life wasn't always that easy for Rascon overseas.

Even though the locals treated Rascon like a rich and famous celebrity, he didn't get paid like one. Since Kotor is a small market, Rascon said that even the best players made around $16,000 a year.

"We wake up every day here in America and see an NBA or an NFL guy signing for four years and $80 million," Rascon said. "That's unheard over there of for one player to sign for that amount of money."

Unlike other popular sports that are franchised in the U.S., water polo is a footnote compared to basketball or football because there are no professional aquatic leagues in the U.S.

For this reason, there is not a lot of money for American players to make by playing overseas.

"It's very difficult in our country for guys like Nick who don't have a strong vehicle to keep playing," LBSU's water polo head coach, Gavin Arroyo said. "If you don't go to Europe and make that commitment, you're essentially done at a high level."

The money Rascon did make playing for Primorac was just enough to pay for food, housing, going out and other necessities. Because of this, Rascon started having second thoughts about playing professional water polo overseas.

His injury was the catalyst that forced him out of the game.

Following the game where he got hurt, Rascon got an MRI on his knee. While he waited for the results, he played two more games in pain. Although he continued to do physical therapy to rehabilitate his left ACL, deep down Rascon knew that he needed to take a break and decided to return home.

> **"I'm still not a hundred percent sure if I am done. I love to play, I love the sport and I wanted to keep going..."**
>
> *—Nick Rascon, Former LBSU water polo player*

"It was just wear and tear and grind on my leg," Rascon said. "It was my body telling me, 'Hey Nick, you need to take a couple months off or else it's going to break down for good.'"

Rascon said the hardest part about his decision to return home was that it possibly meant saying goodbye to the game for good. Now that he's back home, Rascon's made the switch from the water to the office.

Before, Rascon suited up for work in a speedo, sun block and a cap. But at his current job in Irvine where he sells commercial real estate, Rascon has no other choice but to sport a suit.

Although his current occupation and playing water polo couldn't be more different, Rascon said he still maintains the motto he developed as a 49er and applies it to the workforce.

"Stay competitive, stay hungry, and stay humble," Rascon said. "I always say that if you don't fail, you're never going to learn."

In his current job, Rascon said he already makes "100 percent" more money than he did playing for Primorac. But deep down, his competitive fire still burns.

Rascon's former coach is helping him network with some teams in Spain, where Arroyo played professionally.

"Basically, I have a friend whose father was the president of the club that I played for," Arroyo said. "Since water polo is a relatively small community, they always keep their ears open to what's available."

But even with a couple teams lined up that he could go and play for, Arroyo said he "thinks Nick's done."

Arroyo also described Rascon as an "incredibly intense, fearless and a tremendous competitor." Because of that fiery approach, letting go of the game for good has its melancholy, but Rascon's playing career "might not be over yet."

"I'm still not a hundred percent sure if I am done," Rascon said. "I love to play, I love the sport and I wanted to keep going with my career, but I was so frustrated [in Europe] with my leg because no matter how much I rehabilitated it, the pain wouldn't go away. It's tough giving it up, but it all depends on my health."

Nick Rascon
LBSU water polo highlights

94 games played

125 total goals, 16th all-time in LBSU history

2-time Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches All-American Honorable Mention

3-time All-Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Honorable Mention

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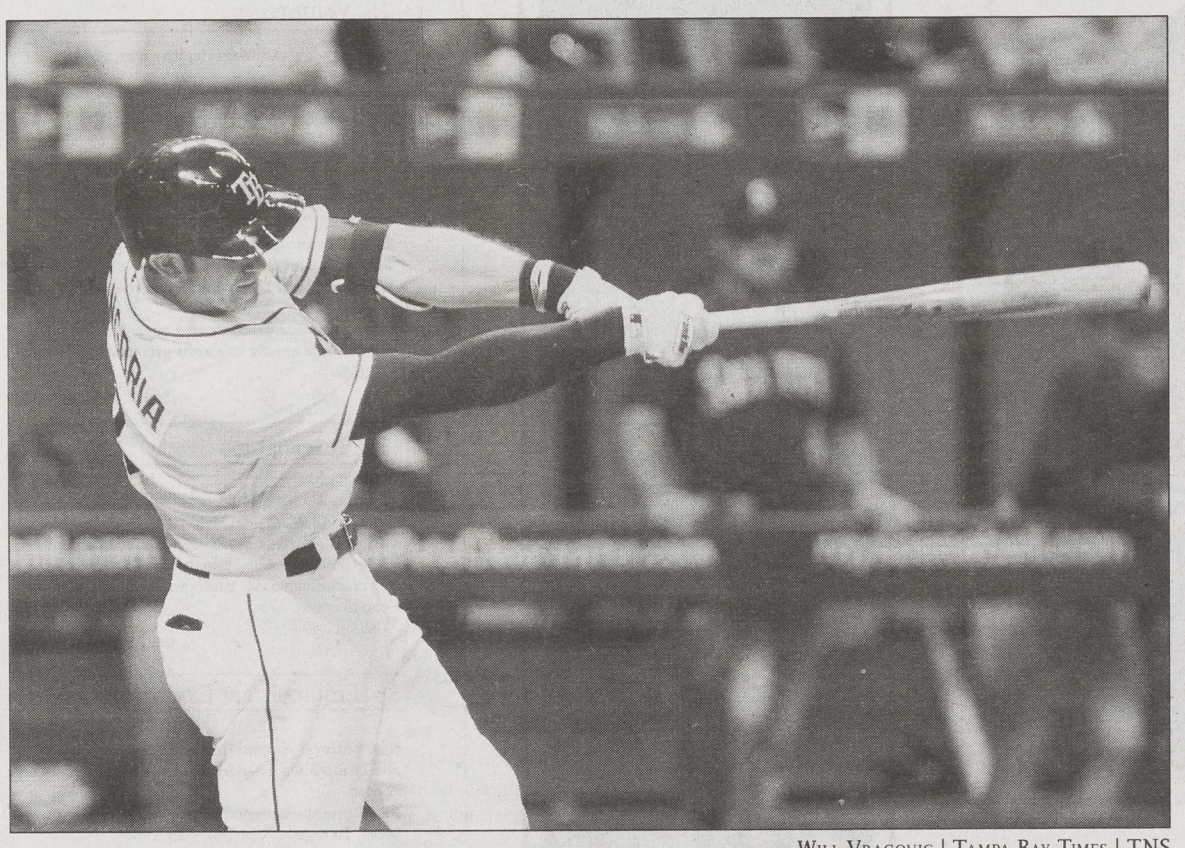
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LBSU Athletics

Making some room in the hall of fame

Long Beach State Athletics announced Evan Longoria and Hannah Grady as the newest members of the school's hall of fame.

By Josh Barajas
Sports Editor



Will Vragovic | Tampa Bay Times | TNS



File Photo | Daily 49er

Evan Longoria, above, played for the LBSU dirtbags for two seasons before being drafted third in 2006 by the Tampa Bay Rays. Hannah Grady, right, helped lead LBSU to its first NCAA win in 2006. Both players will be inducted into the LBSU Hall of Fame.

Former LBSU athletes Evan Longoria and Hannah Grady will be inducted into the 2015 Long Beach State Hall of Fame.

Former athletes are only eligible to be inducted into the hall of fame five years after their collegiate careers have ended, or they decided to leave school early.

Longoria wrapped up his two-year career as a Dirtbag with 73 runs batted in and 16 home runs in 2006; He won Big West co-Player of the Year that same year. The third baseman's career after college has been even more impressive.

The Downey, California native was drafted third overall by the Tampa Bay Rays; the highest draft pick in LBSU history. Longoria made the all-star team and made a World Series appearance in his first season in 2008; a year in which he was named Rookie of the Year.

Grady didn't have the same post collegiate career success in her sport as Longoria, but her stint as a 49er on the women's tennis team was much more illustrious. From 2006-09, Grady won four Big West Player of the Year awards. She's the only athlete in school history to earn that achievement.

The English international helped LBSU to four straight conference titles and the first NCAA win in school history as a freshman in 2006. Immediately after her collegiate career, Grady had a court at the Rhodes Tennis Center named after her.

Longoria will join Troy Tulowitzki and Jered Weaver as current major leaguers in the LBSU Hall of Fame. Grady will be the first women's tennis player to be inducted.

A new inductee into the Hall of Fame will be introduced on Friday.

Hall-ward bound

Evan Longoria
- 73 RBI
- 16 Home Runs
- .336 career batting average
- 2006 Big West co-Player of the Year
- Golden Spikes Award Finalist
- Picked 3rd Overall in 2006 MLB Draft

Hannah Grady
- 4-time Big West Player of the Year (2006-09)
- 4-time Big West Champion
- 41-1 record in conference singles
- Participated in the NCAA singles draw in 2006 and 2008
- 11 Big West Player of the Week Awards (most in school history)

TEAM USA

continued from page 1

whelmingly big player, he uses that to his advantage with his speed running the bases and his lateral quickness on defense.

"[Garrett] is one of those exemplary kids that you search for, for your program," Buckley said. "He's a guy that you have to see play every day to really appreciate the type of player that he is. His instincts are at a very high level and those are difficult things to quantify."

This past season, Hampson batted at a .296 average and led the Dirtbags with 38 runs scored 64 hits with 17 runs batted in.

He also led the team in stolen bases by swiping 18 bags on 22 attempts and totaled 79 total bases from hits.

"I am not worried about Garrett Hampson one bit," Buckley said. "I'm not worried about him falling off the path because success doesn't come to him quickly. He's going to be a pretty high draft pick and is going to play for a long time."

Buckley said that the baseball industry will have different things to say about Hampson's size and abilities on the field when it comes to him playing at the next level, but that he will only get better with more experience.

Being able to compete at the highest level of collegiate baseball is a "fantastic honor" Buckley said.



Rascon

In six years time, he said that most of the players from the national team will be playing in the majors.

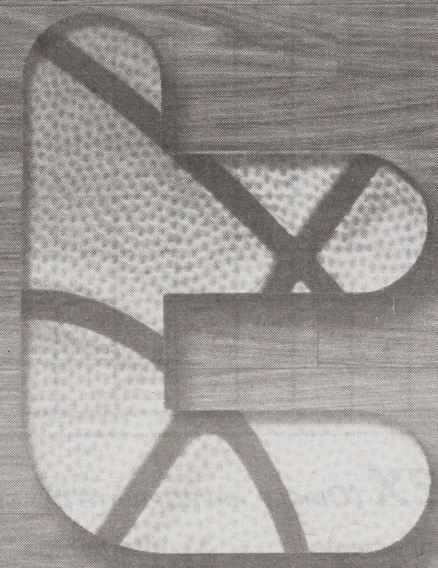
Going into his junior year with the Dirtbags,

Hampson will take with him all of the experience and lessons he learned over the summer to help his home team.

He said that no matter what happens, you have to keep playing the game.

"My greatest achievement has been this summer, playing for my country," Hampson said. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity and I'll never forget the experience I had this summer."

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